

Problem

Let  $ABCDE$  be a convex pentagon in the plane and  $ABC$  the inscribed triangle with the max. area. How big can be the area of the pentagon?.

Generalizations.

This is a part of an old problem of mine which is unpublished until now.

The original problem is:

Let  $G = A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$ ,  $m \geq d + 1$  be a point set in  $E^d$  and the volume of every d-simplex with vertices among the  $A_i$  is no bigger than  $K^d$ . Find the the max.volume of the convex cover of  $G$

The same problem for  $G = \text{convex body in } E^d$ .

We start the solution for the problem in the plane.

For the quadrilateral  $ABCD$  we suppose that the max. inscribed triangle is  $ABC$ . It is elementary to prove that the max. area for the quadrilateral is the parallelogram  $ABCD$  of area  $2(ABC)$ .

The problem is quite difficult for the convex pentagon  $ABCDE$ . We suppose that the inscribed triangle of max. area is  $ABC$ .

We first answer to the following question. Given is the triangle  $ABC$ . We try to find the points  $D, E$  so that the convex pentagon with vertices  $A, B, C, D, E$  has the max. area relative to triangle  $ABC$ .

Let  $c = (o, 1)$  be the unit circle and  $A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$  the regular inscribed pentagon. The succession on the circle of the vertices is  $A_0, D_0, B_0, C_0, E_0$ . Therefore the biggest triangle of the regular pentagon  $A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$  is  $A_0B_0C_0$ .

We now assume that  $t$  is the affinity so that :

$$A_0B_0C_0 = t.ABC$$

so, the asked pentagon is

$$ABCDE = t^{-1}.A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$$

The maximum of the area of the pentagon ABCDE can easily follow from the unique affine  $t$  transforming the ABC to  $A_0B_0C_0$ .  
 (there is an obvious case, the asked two points  $D$  and  $E$  be in the triangle  $BA'C$  of the parallelogram  $ABA'C$ . This case does not offer to the problem)

Therefore

$$\max \text{area}(ABCDE) = \text{area}(ABC) \cdot \frac{\text{area}(A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0)}{\text{area}(A_0B_0C_0)}$$

We work similarly for the original problem. We suppose that the convex cover of  $G$  is the polytope  $G_1 = A_1A_2...A_p$   $p \geq d+1$  and  $S_1$  the  $d$ -simplex with the max.volume inscribed in  $G_1$ . We consider the unit sphere  $c = (o,1)$  and we suppose that  $B = B_1B_2...B_p$  is the inscribed polytope in  $c = (o,1)$  with the max.volume and  $S_{o1}$  the simplex with the max.volume inscribed in  $B$ . We transform by the affinity  $t$ , so that:

$$S_{o1} = t.S_1$$

We will have:

$$\max \text{vol}.G = \max \text{vol}.G_1 = \frac{\text{vol}.B}{\text{vol}.S_{o1}} \cdot \text{vol}.S_1$$

We similarly investigate the case  $G$ =convex body and  $S$  the inscribed simplex with max.volume. Let again  $c = (o,1)$  be the unit sphere and  $S_0$  the inscribed regular simplex in  $c$ . By the affinity  $t$  we transform

$$S_0 = t.S$$

The max.volume of the convex body  $G$  will be:

$$\max \text{vol}.G = \frac{\text{vol}.c}{\text{vol}.S_0} \cdot \text{vol}.S$$

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